Setting up of a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority

24. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of setting up of a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority to enforce guidelines and regulations on Television and Radio contents; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including composition of the authority?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration in the Ministry.

Implementation of CAS

25. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the experiment to implement CAS in South Delhi has failed and even the Delhi Government has stated that consumers do not like CAS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to postpone implementation of CAS in the metropolitan cities from 1st January, 2004;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the fate of those who have already installed set top boxes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) The State Governments of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal had approached the Central Government for deferment/withdrawal of Conditional Access System (CAS), citing various reasons relating to consumer's interests, including issue of pricing of pay channels, Set Top Boxes (STBs) and terms and conditions for procurement of STBs. Besides, during the course of implementation of CAS, a deep divide was also, noticed among the stake holders, *viz.* Broadcasters, Multi Service Operators and Local Cable Operators, impinging on the consumer's interests. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI),

which was notified as regulator for broadcasting in cable services in January, 2004, has initiated a number of steps to asertain the difficulties faced by consumers, the effect of implementation of CAS and problems faced during the course of implementation. TRAI, as an interim measure, suggested that the implementation of CAS in four Metros be either denotified or kept in abeyance for atleast three months. The Government, in the larger interest of the public has suspended the implementation of CAS in all the four metros till further orders through a notification dated 27.2.2004. The Chennai High Court has, however, stayed the suspension of CAS in Chennai.

Inclusion of Labana Community in the list of Scheduled Tribes

26. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 122 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st July, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received the ethnographic material on Labana Community from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for its inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBALAFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Housing problem in Delhi

†27. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Development Authority has been advised to take help from the private sector to solve the residential problems of Delhi;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposal is under Government's consideration in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.